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MADRAS WAR REVIEW

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

VOL. IV FRIDAY, MAY 14, 1943 No. 35

DUNKIRK'S DEBT REPAID

H.M. THE KING

GEN. EISENHOWER

THROUGHOUT the six months during which you have been in command of the Allied Forces in North Africa, I have watched with admiration the progress of the operations on sea, on land and in the air

UNDER your leadership, forces, diverse in nationality and race, have been knit into one united and successful whole Their task has not been easy and the resistance of the enemy has been determined and desperate. But now, with the capture of Tunis and Bizerta, your campaign is almost concluded. The last enemy forces in Africa are being captured or destroyed, and the debt of 'Dunkirk' has been repaid

ON behalf of all my peoples, I express to you, as the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces, and to all ranks under your command our heartfelt congratulations on your victory

H.M. THE KING *in a message to* GEN. EISENHOWER *on May 9*

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Our Photographic Competition: Award of Prizes

Nine candidates competed for the prizes announced for our photographic competition. They were from all over the Madras Presidency, such as, Chidambaram, Coimbatore, Erode, Guntur, Madras, Tanjore and Trichinopoly. Two entrants were disqualified, because they did not conform to the rules; one of them sent negatives, instead of photographs!

The entries sent in by *Mr. N. R. Natesan*, 26, Mangapathi Naicken Street, Chintadripet, Madras, were adjudged the best. He gets the following prizes:—

First prize (Rs. 20) for "A well being sunk."

Second prize (Rs. 10) for "Improved cattle."

As announced, a prize of Rs. 3 each was given for the best photographs in each of the subjects, and the same competitor gets all these prizes for the following entries:—(i) House-building; (ii) A Finished Well; (iii) Terrace of Fields; (iv) Vegetable Gardens; (v) Poultry-keeping, and (vi) A Wedding.

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Madras War Review.

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

VOL. IV FRIDAY, MAY 14, 1943 No. 35

Merchant Shipping Situation: Axis exaggeration of sinkings.

Our readers would have seen in last Saturday's newspapers that Mr. ELMER DAVIS, the head of the United States Office of War Information, has disclosed that during last month (April), Allied merchant shipping losses were less than half of those during March. Referring to the German claim of having sunk almost half a million tons, he said that it was "considerably exaggerated." He pointed out that heavy Allied losses at sea might continue until the escort ship programme got underway in the next few months. A number of statements have also been made recently on the U-boat menace and the merchant shipping situation. Towards the end of last month (April 28), Rear-Admiral LAND, Chairman of the United States Maritime Commission quoted Mr. CHURCHILL's statement that the United Nations had a greater merchant tonnage in service to-day than they had a year ago, and said, "That statement can be affirmed, but in affirming it let us add we are still—as we have been since war began—definitely short of ships." Mr. LAND gave some figures regarding the building of merchant ships. There are more than 30 shipyards with more than 250 quays, which are building big ocean-going merchant ships. There are about 40 other shipyards, from which types of auxiliary craft are turned out—some for merchant shipping, some for Lend-Lease, and the others for the armed forces. These shipyards are located in 24 out of America's 48 states. Parts and materials for merchant ships are produced by nearly 1,000 other plants which are in three-fourths of the states.

On April 30 two statements were made by authoritative spokesmen in United States and Canada. One was by the United States Navy Secretary, Colonel KNOX. He revealed that sinkings by submarines in April were much lower that they were in March. "During the past four months," he said, "we have been steadily adding a number of surface units and aircraft to the battle with submarines." He shared the hope of Admiral KING that, within four to six months, the submarine situation would be brought under control. The other was a joint statement by Mr. MACDONALD, the Canadian Navy Minister, and Mr. POWER, the Canadian Air Minister. The statement has outlined a plan chalked out at the recent Anti-Submarine Conference held in Washington. In accordance with that plan, Rear-Admiral L. W. MURRAY, of the Royal Canadian Navy, has been appointed Commander-in-Chief of the North-west Atlantic. The anti-submarine operations of the long-range Canadian and American bombers, which are patrolling in mid-Atlantic, will be directed by an

(*Continued on page* 6)

A Crushing Defeat

☆

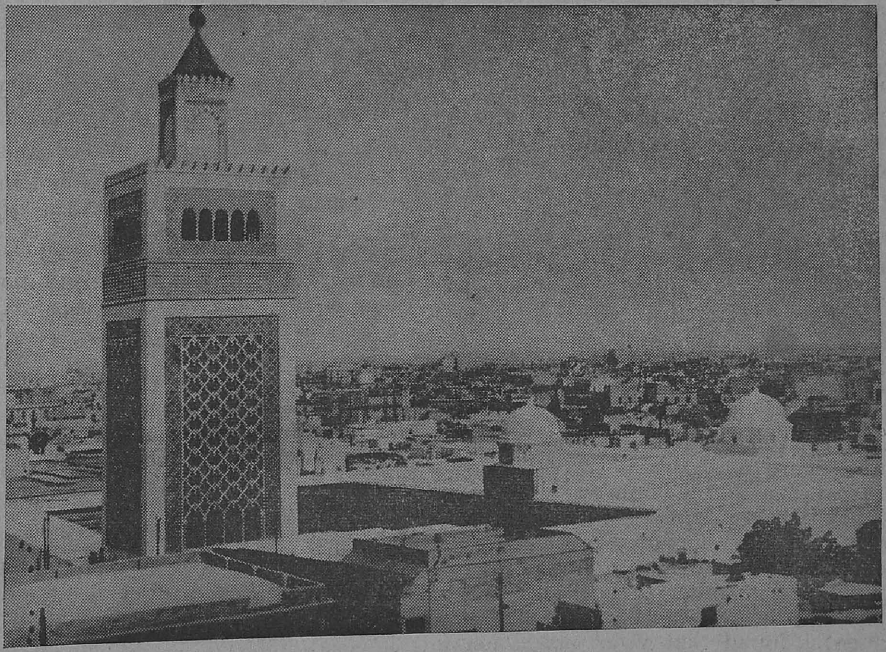
IN his review of the war situation, in the House of Commons on Monday (May 10), Mr. ATTLEE, Deputy Prime Minister, referred to the great victory won by the United Nations in North Africa—a victory which sent a thrill of joy not only through the hearts of the British people and their Allies, but also of well-wishers all over the world. He paid a growing tribute to the men who had driven the enemy from Tunis and Bizerta and inflicted such a crushing defeat on the Axis forces. The success of the Allied plan in Tunisia depended on the co-ordination of movements of large bodies of troops of all arms fighting on a 100-mile front of difficult and broken country. Mr. ATTLEE pointed out that, in this great battle, American and British, French Metropolitan and Colonial troops, New Zealanders and Indians, all played their appropriate part. The co-operation between men of different nationalities and the co-ordination of military, naval and air forces stand out as most notable in the Tunisian campaign. This mutual understanding brought the campaign to " a pitch of perfection we have never hitherto attained." It was this perfection of co-operation and co-ordination which was responsible for the dramatic suddenness with which the two great enemy strongholds fell. Both Bizerta and Tunis were captured on Friday last (May 7) within a quarter of an hour of each other.

REFERRING to the recent Axis fighting in Tunisia, a B.B.C. commentator says that it is " rather like a reckless mountain-climber who has lost his grip. He falls and then for a moment he clutches his grip, falls, and then he clutches again, and again, he falls." The loss of Massicault, a key-point in the Axis defensive system which was well placed on the Medjez-Tunis highway. was one such fall and it helped in hastening the closing stages of the battle. It was a strongly fortified position and was surrounded by powerful defences and it became evident that if the Axis was not in a position to hold such key-points as Bou Aokoz and Massicault, it could not hold any other positions along the whole of the road to Tunis. So when General ANDERSON, Commander of the British First Army, launched what is said to be a very brilliant example of sustained blitzgrieg ever known in the history of British arms, the German front got fractured, and ultimately collapsed.

THERE were four great armies in the final fierce battles preceding the great victory of Bizerta and Tunis, namely, the American Second Corps, the Fighting French, the British First Army and the British Eighth Army. All these maintained a sustained general pressure against Axis positions everywhere along the 100-mile perimeter ever since the capture of Enfidaville by the Eighth Army. The American Second Corps was pushing on in the extreme north towards Bizerta from the Cape Serrat area. Further south, the British First Army after capturing Longstop Hill and occupying the hills on either side of the Medjez-el-Bob-Tebourba road thundered across the river valley and marched on to Tunis. The Eighth Army was maintaining an incessant pressure from the south. Between the First and the Eighth armies were the Allied French Forces which formed the left flank of the Eighth Army and helped in the capture of Pont-du-Fahs. The capture of Pont-du-Fahs severed the vital supply

route to the Axis forces facing the Eighth Army and forced them to withdraw, to avoid being taken in the rear. The capture of Tebourba opened the way into the plains towards Tunis and the occupation of Mateur gave the Allies control of the direct road and railway between Bizerta and Tunis.

THE progress of the Allied armies in these different sections was steady and comprehensive and made the Axis forces fight under new conditions which were easier for the Allies and harder for them. A grouped and concentrated army when it stands at bay on open space will take a lot of beating, as instanced by the long resistance of the encircled German Sixth Army at Stalingrad. But such an army fighting in a mountainous area has not the advantages of terrain. The enemy was driven step



A GENERAL VIEW OF TUNIS

by step in Northern Tunisia from the mountainous regions down to the flatter and easier plains. By the time the final stage of the battle for Bizerta and Tunis was reached, the air superiority and mechanised power of the Allied group of armies were ready to stage the fitting dramatic climax to the whole North African campaign.

NOW the Axis forces have retreated into the Cape Bon Peninsula which Von Arnim wants to turn into a second Bataan, but the Peninsula has been blockaded by Allied forces and the enemy attempt at a large-scale evacuation is bound to end in failure. This means that the debt of 'Dunkirk', in the words of His Majesty the King, has been repaid. It has been repaid to the full.

BUT this is only the beginning. Mr. CHURCHILL is busy seeing to that. His visit to Washington is likely to have consequences which the Nazis little dream of. Casablanca has driven the Axis out of North Africa. The Washington talks spell the doom of the Axis in *Festung Europa*.

RUNNING COMMENTARY

(*Continued from page 3*)

American officer. From the mid-Atlantic the British bombers will take over the work of patrolling. Thus over the entire Atlantic route between North America and Europe an air "umbrella" has been established. This "umbrella" planned by the Canadian Government has eliminated the 600-mile corridor gap in mid-Atlantic, to which the Germans had been making frequent references as "a graveyard of Anglo-American shipping."

* * * *

Berlin's Spring Offensive fizzles out—Result of Allied Counter-Offensive. The main theme of the Berlin radio in recent months was the threat of intensified submarine warfare in spring. "Wait for the spring and the abatement of the winter gales," it said. The spring has come and gone and winter gales have abated, but sinkings of Allied ships have also abated! That is why the fantastic claims of GOEBBELS' propaganda department have now been pitched in a lower key. The Berlin radio's claim for the month of April is only 423,000 gross tons. This is the lowest figure since December 1941, and it is less than half of Berlin's total claim in March 1943. The fanfare of trumpets which used to accompany the announcements of Allied shipping losses, was significantly absent, because of the smallness of the claim. GOEBBELS evidently feared that wide publication of such a small claim would falsify the expectations raised by the much-heralded U-boat spring offensive. His claims have always overstated the actual facts, but now the progress of Allied shipping construction has made him lie harder than usual. For example Mr. A. V. ALEXANDER, the First Lord of the British Admiralty, said on March 3, 1943:

> "From December 1 last to February 28, our tonnage losses have been *much less* than in the corresponding months of last winter."

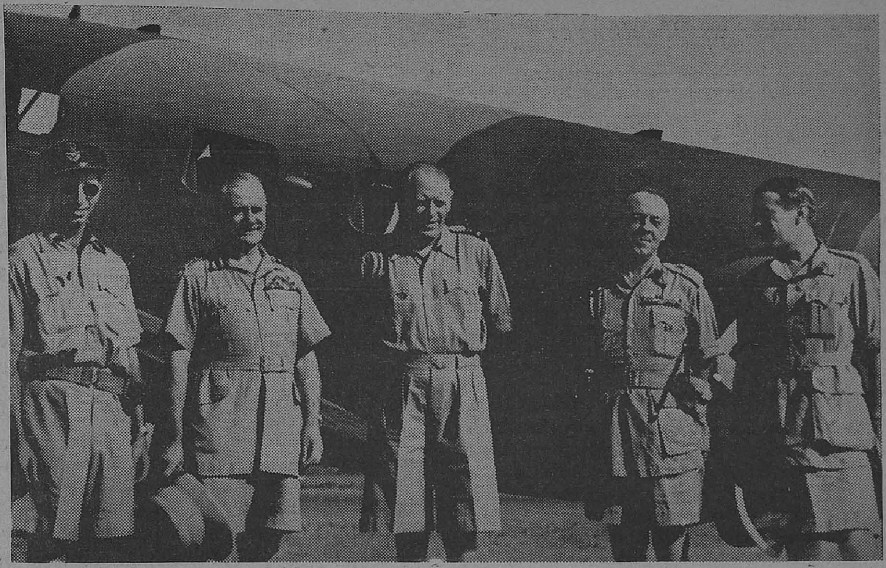
And yet Berlin claims that there was an increase of 40 *per cent* over the claims for the corresponding period of 1941–42! GOEBBELS is trying hard to counter the Allied statements that shipping losses are being more than replaced by new construction. The counter-offensive to the U-boat menace began last summer when Allied replacements began to outstrip the actual sinkings. In September 1942, more than a million deadweight tons, of shipping were produced in the United States, and so GOEBBELS pushed up his claims for September to more than a million gross tons (1,000,000 deadweight tons, about 700,000 gross tons). Towards the end of last month (April 28) Berlin declared,

> "In spite of all the juggling with figures—between deadweight and gross registered tons—there can be no denying the fact that the sinkings of Anglo-American tonnage are still by far surpassing the new construction."

* * * *

Pace of Allied Production and Axis Sinkings: German Plan Gone Wrong. As usual no figures were given to prove this generalisation. But the fact remains that the United Nations are building merchant ships at the rate of 1,250,000 gross tons a month now. This is more than what Berlin has claimed to have sunk in any month of this war. It may be pointed out that the average monthly claim of the Berlin radio from the beginning of September 1939 to the end of March 1943 was 601,405 gross tons, and that of the period April 1942—March 1943 was 788,073 gross tons. The highest monthly claim ever issued from Berlin was in November 1942—1,035,200 gross tons.

It would thus be seen that something has gone wrong in the German plan to deal a shattering blow at Allied shipping in the spring of this year. This may be due to severe U-boat losses in recent weeks. Further in the Northern Hemisphere the hours of daylight increases with the approach of summer, and this means that the U-boats have a much shorter time to do their nefarious work. The convoys in the North Atlantic route are now enjoying greater protection by surface escorts than they did at any previous time. They are also having sufficient air escort throughout the voyage. These facts show that the pace of Allied production is greater than the sinkings and this, there is no doubt, is a gratifying feature of the present shipping situation.



GENERAL WAVELL, Commander-in-Chief, India, made a tour of defences and outposts in Assam. Photo shows General Wavell (2nd from left) with Air Vice Marshall Stephenson (3rd from left) (A.O.C., Bengal Command) and Lt.-Gen. Irwin (4th from left) (G.O.C., Eastern Command).

The Salvage Front

By HAMISH F. SIMPSON

I understand that most of the talks in this series have been devoted to telling listeners what is being done for the war effort and tonight I am not going to enlarge on what is being done. I am in fact going to suggest a few little things which can be done without any trouble to anyone. Simple things which probably have not appeared to be sufficiently important till now. I frankly confess, thinking over what I have done for the war effort, that a great deal more is certainly to be desired and I rather think, that habit is largely the cause of my various neglect.

Let me give you a few examples of what I have not done for the war effort. I am too lazy to sharpen my razor blades knowing that they can last for three more days if I sharpened them. We all know that the price of razor blades has increased tremendously but still rather than take trouble to sharpen them, I prefer to pay the extra price for a new blade. When I write letters I do not really pause to think that possibly a telephone call could avoid a letter, and thereby help to conserve paper. I do not make use of old envelopes, but throw them in the wastepaper basket. I buy copies of daily newspapers, but I do not preserve them as I ought to, and so many other minor points. But rather than deal at greater lengths on my personal faults let us see what is best to be done about it.

USELESS ODDS AND ENDS

There have been many appeals in the press, in the radio and in posters in the city for Salvage. And by Salvage, I think, is meant all sorts of odds and ends of things that are no longer useful to us. I am sure you must all remember that when you have to shift from one bungalow to another and have to empty your almirahs, writing desks, chest of drawers, and book cases, how you have been almost amazed at the amount of junk which accumulated, and it is this type of junk that the Salvage people are appealing for, and if we only take the time to search through the house, I have no doubt whatever that an enormous quantity could be collected.

I am very keen on playing my gramophone, and there have been few occasions whether inadvertantly either myself or one of my servants has stepped on a record and broken it, but I never thought to keep the broken parts and send them to the Salvage depot. But broken gramophone records and old records for which there is no use are very welcome indeed.

What about all the negatives that one collects over a period of years? I am very keen on photography, and I must have hundreds and hundreds of negatives which I probably never used for making prints, and in fact, through carelessness lost as many negatives as I now

possess. These too are very welcome in a Salvage depot. When we require new batteries for our torches what happens to the old ones? I think they are easily thrown away, instead of being preserved. Empty match boxes, your old car batteries, if you are fortunate enough to have sufficient petrol to still run a car, empty bottles, silver paper, in fact, practically everything that you find in your house is not by any means valueless but just the contrary. All the junk that you send to the Salvage depot is turned into some highly useful and who knows, even essential, article for the war. So really the junk in our homes that we can collect is another of the many ways in which we can help to crush our enemies.

HOW WOMEN CAN HELP

So far, I have dealt with many ways in which men would be able to collect salvage in their homes. Now let us turn to the ladies of the house. I wonder if I dare suggest that I think they can assist in the common cause. I understand, on good authority that the various paraphernalia necessary for permanent waving is not only very difficult to get these days, but is also very useful for war machines. So perhaps one might do without a permanent wave, or have them less frequently than they did before. There is no one who can doubt the popularity of the various coloured nail varnishes which are largely used to-day by ladies in India. They have in them chemicals which, I feel sure, have other uses, and I do know for certain that the polish remover though it be sold in attractive bottles at expensive prices is largely acetone, which is very vital to the war effort. Quite a number of ladies are cigarette smokers, and in certain countries cigar smokers, but I am glad to say that I am still perfectly safe in leaving pipe and tobacco pouch. Well, the necessity of conserving paper cannot be better emphasised than the present arrangement which makes it necessary for one to produce empty cartoons before further supplies are effected.

I should imagine that the ladies do collect the odds and ends around the house, but I wonder if they take the trouble of sending them to the Salvage depot. I rather think that a great deal of it finds its way to the store-room especially now that people will be leaving for the hills, and naturally like to give their houses a clean up before leaving them in the charge of their husbands, or perhaps completely locked up.

CHILDREN'S OLD TOYS

Now we come to the children. What about the old toys which are broken, especially celluloid toys, or an old perambulator and the various things which had at one time been necessary for the child's happiness, but now are no longer in use, but stored away probably in the store room? A large number of babies might be fed on tinned preparations, these empty tins are very valuable as salvage. And the school children must have left at home many old exercise books now that the schools are closed, and all sorts of things which are useful as salvage and it is now an excellent opportunity to collect these things together and send them to the Salvage depot. And now what can be done in the office. Old typewriter ribbons, which cannot be further used, old files, some of last year's calendars, unnecessary books, and so many other things which constantly litter up the desk. What about the old electric bulbs which are very welcome to the Salvage depot?

So far I have tried to give an idea of various articles which are really valueless to us, and yet are so welcome to a Salvage depot. And now let us think of a few ways other than

RED CROSS POSTAL MESSAGE SERVICE

The Indian Red Cross Postal Message Service has been extended to the following countries :—

Japan, Korea, Formosa, Shanghai, Hongkong, occupied China, Thailand and French Indo-China.

Messages relating to personal or family matters only may now be sent by persons in India, not being prisoners of war or interned civilians, to their relatives in the abovementioned countries who are neither prisoners of war nor civilian internees, through the Red Cross Postal Message Service under the conditions prescribed for the Service.

The extension of territory does not, however, cover an extension in the number of languages which may be used. These are English, French, German, Italian, Norwegian, Danish or Dutch.

collecting junk which would go to help in the common cause. There are many ways by which we could minimise the use of certain materials which would come in useful for the war effort. Again here I mention my faults as they have struck me. I am sure we can always remember to switch off the fan when going out of the room to avoid wastage of electricity, and as you all know electricity has got to be conserved as best as it could possibly be done, by seeing that no lights and fans are switched on unless absolutely necessary. Perhaps there are still many who enjoy writing on costly paper, because they think it lends certain dignity to the letter, but at the present time any scrap of paper is good enough to send a note. And visiting cards which, in this country, are considered very important in social life need not be lavishly used, and no one would mind if you wished to have the cards returned after they had served their purpose of introduction. For those who are very keen on bridge it is not necessary to open a new pack of cards. It does not really matter if cards do get a little soiled. After all the ace of spades is still the top card in bridge whether it is new or soiled.

SEND THEM TO SALVAGE DEPOT

I have tried to think of a number of various ways to-night as to how salvage can be collected, but I have no doubt that many other ways will strike you, and after all, we in this part of the world have very much to be thankful for that any way whatever in which we can assist the Allies in winning this war ought to be our first consideration, and the various ways that I have mentioned to-night do not cause anybody any difficulty financially. All we have to do is to collect the articles for which we have no further use and send them to the Salvage depot and by doing so now especially in view of the present emergency, you are helping the war effort more than you probably realize.

I am sure that I am by no means the only offender in not collecting salvage, but let us to-night make a resolution that at least we shall not hereafter be considered as lazy and careless, which, after all, is the only excuse I can offer for my not collecting and sending them to the depot. I feel certain that none of us deliberately neglect our duty in collecting salvage, and the default in this direction is, I am sure, largely due to our not fully realizing how very important these little articles can be. In peace time we never cared or thought of what happened to them and probably just thrown out for a bonfire. To-day they help to kindle those fires which will bring the enemy to his doom. Remember every little counts.

—A recent talk broadcast from A.I.R., Madras.

Submarines' Part in Battle of Africa

WHEN the war in the Mediterranean is over and various factors in the campaign are balanced, the part played by Allied submarines in the battle of Africa will have an important place, observes the *Daily Telegraph* special correspondent with the North African forces. He adds:

In a long talk with a senior submarine officer I heard something of the story describing the vital part that submarines of the British, Polish, French and Greek navies are playing in the final severing of the dwindling Axis supply lines in Tunisia. One flotilla alone, the senior officer said, has sunk, since the day of the first landings on November 8, 50 large ships and an enormous number of small vessels, trawlers, motor barges and the like which have been the mainstay of Kesselring's sea communications. Other flotillas have done equally well in proportion to the available target. Total successful attacks have been amazing.

LOST TO THE THREE ARMS

The enemy do not run huge convoys of stores with the ships presenting a magnificent target, because they dare not. Instead, they run their supplies very often in individual ships or two-ship convoys ringed round with destroyers and E-boats. They sweep the seas on either side, then watch the waters from the air; and still we sink their vessels and vital supplies. General Eisenhower said the other day that 50 per cent of the ships which left Italy for Africa had been lost to the three arms of the vital battle—the submarine, surface vessels and the air.

How it has been done on the part of submarines is one of the campaign's miracles. The main reason has been the cool courage, resolution and daring of the young men who command the vessels. Talking to a group of them on a submarine depot ship somewhere on the North African coast, I heard, something of it.

Their ages ranged from 24 to the "old man" of the party . . . . who was 37. One of them told me cheerfully how he was disappointed when he went in search of targets into an enemy harbour. He saw ships inside the harbour and fired three torpedoes through the entrance. Pressing still further to get

a view of the results, he slid up to a 15-foot patch, which meant that the submarine was half out of water.

"The first thing I saw," he said, "was the local fire brigade turning out. The next thing was a horse and cart about 50 feet away. It was all right, and I slid off again."

STORY OF THREE SHIPS

Commander Ben Bryant, the submarine "ace," told a story of three ships creeping along "within a cuckoo-spit of the Italian coast." The first two ships he torpedoed; the third did not wait, but, turning under full helm steered straight for the shore and beached herself. "So I went in and fished here and there."

The stories are endless, but one of the greatest of them all was told by the senior officer himself. It is the story of the Malta flotillas who carried on throughout the long hammering of the devoted island. When conditions became impossible for repair and maintenance ashore they worked out a system of spare crews which took over incoming submarines from the weary fighting crews, steamed out to sea and carried out maintenance under the water during the day and on the surface at night.

Volte-Face among Italian People?

By C. M. FRANZ ORO.

ORTTICO FASCISTA, the outstanding Fascist political review edited by Signor Battai, former Minister for Corporations, published a leading article of striking importance in its March number. The article indicates the seriousness of the internal political situation and is an admission of *volte-face* among all classes of the Italian people, which is tantamount to a repudiation of Fascism.

"Certain significant demands," says the writer, "have arisen in the Italian soul of to-day, demands which are responsible for general restlessness and impatience."

THE REASON

"One may be astonished that this attitude should be found in all circles and in all parts of Italy. Some people try to attribute it to fickleness of character and war weariness. But this attitude is, in its essentials, inspired by demands which give life to the already common language used to describe a series of problems fundamentally identical, and one must admit that times have never been as favourable as at present for the encouragement of egoism."

The writer does not profess to justify the "retrograde attitudes which flourish so frequently in these difficult years," but admits that "they are expressions of political sufferings arising from the less happy progress of public affairs, from alteration in the fortune of war and from everything which is not proceeding according to general desire.

OTHER DEMANDS

"One demand," continues the writer, "is for a thoroughly prepared and equipped military force proportional to our numerical strength. The Italians have not suffered so much through what they have lost in the war—and they have lost things to which they were deeply attached—as from the material impossibility of immediately reconquering them even at the cost of heavy sacrifices."

"Another demand is for competent political government inspired as far as possible by sincere desire to serve. It should be the expression of a political class constituted by the best ruling minds available to the country. Public opinion regards the day of experiments and improvisation as passed."

"NEO-LIBERALISM"

After admitting that there is a demand for more vigorous progress towards social justice, the writer confesses to the widespread existence of "certain neo-liberalism with which many people appear to have become suddenly possessed. This neo-liberalism is responsible for most suggestive references to the re-establishment of human dignity, of liberty of the individual and all liberties which are invoked in movements of hard sacrifices."

But to the above-listed "political demands" —the very things which Fascism has denied and destroyed for 20 years—the writer adds others of an "ethical" nature, chief among which is "the demand for criticism."

THE COMMON CRY

He proceeds: "There is also a demand for honesty, for competency and for a sense of responsibility and courtesy in all those who in any way attend to public affairs." The article ends, of course, by saying: "Steps must be taken to settle the more pressing problems."

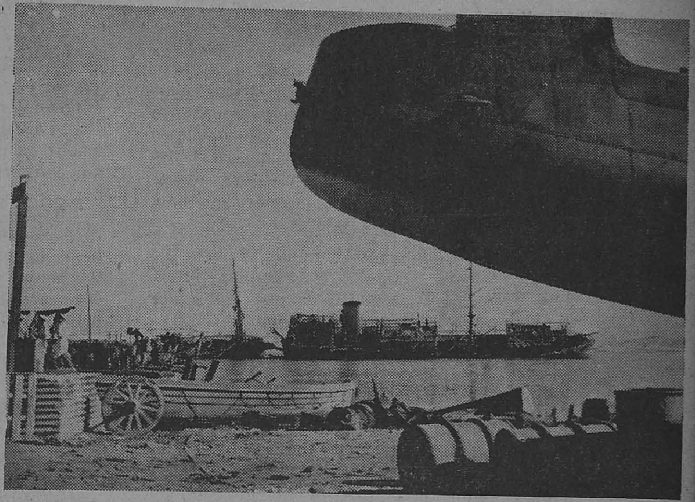
The article is most probably from the pen of Battai himself. Some may wonder why Mussolini, having thrown Battai and others out of his Cabinet under suspicion of being too moderate-minded or even pacifist-minded, allows publication of such surprising opinions. People in Italy—in the cities, factories and fields—are crying out "When will it be over?"

The *Popolo d'Italia* says that these people are "only defeatists." But Mussolini, who used to be so fond of quoting sayings of ancient Rome, should remember that the Romans considered "vox populi" the voice of God.

FRONT LINE PICTURES FROM TUNISIA

Photo shows a German tank burning fiercely after a duel with United States and British anti-tank units in the Medjez-el-Bab area.

Seen from beneath the nose of an abandoned Italian flying boat, an axis supply ship settles gracefully on the bottom of Matruh harbour. Caught by the Royal Air Force it was but one sample of the air-striking power which the Eighth Army found had paralysed the enemy's rear.



Lt.-Gen. Sir B. Freyburg, G.O.C., N.Z. Div., and Lt.-Gen. (now General) Sir B. Montgomery relax at a concert by the New Zealand Army Entertainment unit.

Von Papen in Turkey

By LEONARD KIRSCHEN.

FRANTZ VON PAPEN, the German Ambassador to Turkey, has been extremely quiet for nearly over one year. Now and then he would put in a truly Prussian baronial appearance, either to open or close some exhibition or to present somebody in the Turkish Government with cabinets containing drugs, first editions of German works bound in leather or sometimes when the political cauldron was boiling to present a German replica of some Turkish work of art.

A few days ago, he left on a tour of south-eastern Anatolia and we all thought he went to inspect the German consulates that have lately not been up to the mark in their business of reporting what was going on across the Syrian border. But no, von Papen, accompanied by Frau von Papen, merely went to Mersin to draw inspiration from the Mediterranean spring climate, the blue skies and the cypress trees for his next act of great statesmanship. He delivered a speech a few days ago before a packed audience of white-shirted, black-trousered, uniformed components of the German colony of Istanbul. The setting: ceremoniously Nazi, the occasion: the day of the dead and especially those fallen on the Russian front during the last year.

DID NOT MENTION HITLER

To go over Papen's speech again would be to accord him gratuitous publicity. I shall refrain from going into the details. But one, or rather two points are worth mentioning.

One is what he said and the second is what he did not say. In the first place the whole speech was a tirade against Russia with very much of the Bolshevik bogey and something about the necessity of the European peoples to unite and face the menace.

What he did not mention throughout his speech was the name of his beloved Fuehrer, and he also said nothing about the Nazi Party. Now on such occasions when Germans meet to commemorate something one must say something about the beloved Fuehrer and the Nazi Party even if they were jointly responsible for the dead the Germans of Istanbul were commemorating. But von Papen said nothing.

Von Papen is again at his very old tricks, only he lacks something of the finesse of the diplomat when he tries to transpose on the diplomatic plan what he used to do himself with gangs of hired thugs during the last war. I mean it is more difficult to disrupt relations between countries—especially when these are on the winning side—than to blow up coal ships by placing sticks of dynamite in their holds.

Papen's speech contained such sticks of moral dynamite. He is trying again his old game of creating divergences of opinion between Turkey and Russia. At the same time by not mentioning his beloved Fuehrer and the Nazi Party he is trying in public to support the whispers which he himself has put into circulation to the effect that he, Frantz von Papen, the grave digger of the Second Reich, is now going to be the leader of the Fourth Reich and perhaps repeat his grave-digger role again.

The ideas are not bad but they serve neither him nor his country and what is more they seem to annoy the country he is accredited to. But anything is good enough now for this slick diplomat if he can only trouble the waters or even taint them with the reflection of his horsy face.

TURKEY WITH UNITED NATIONS

The facts are there for all to see and Turkey has taken her place on the side of the United Nations. The Premier's speech said this clearly if not in actual words and the implication is all we want. There is no doubt about it, Germany is getting every day more worried about what is going to happen to her "fortress of Europe." Where will the blow fall and when? This is the question everybody is asking.

Von Papen's speech is a provocation and also a feeler. The provocation part of it does not seem to have succeeded because nobody is taking any notice of what he says except that he has begun to say it badly. It is obvious, however, that he is trying to feel his way about. His direct contacts do not seem to have given him a clear intention of Turkey's future action.

In his speech von Papen tries to draw at least the Tukish journalists. So far with no least the Turkish journalists. So far with no has arrived in Turkey. Perhaps the honourable Herr Doktor will be able to find out what von Papen could not.

BRAVE NAZI

The latest anti-nazi joke going the rounds tells of an anti-aircraft soldier in Germany who got a gold medal with this citation; "During an R.A.F. raid over Berlin, after having exhausted all his ammunition, he continued to shout 'Boom-Boom!' at the top of his lungs, —*obtaining the same result.*"

—From an A.I.R. Broadcast, Madras.

Indian troops serving in Syria and the Lebanon have been able to enjoy Alpine sports this year as heavy falls of snow have occurred throughout the area. Ski-ing is in full swing. The towns and villages nestling in the valleys are indeed picturesque. Photo shows snow in Jerusalem.

North Sea is a British Lake

By WILLIAM STAPLEY.

FITTING into its place in the vast jig-saw of Britain's strategical war plan, the newly developed sea-and-air blow, carefully prepared and brilliantly executed over many months, is beginning to pay handsome dividends in the way of a new headache for Hitler and his generals.

British airmen have been doing a lot of train-busting during the past six months or so. They have played such ducks and drakes with the movement of vast supplies of material needed for the building of Hitler's invasion "wall" that an alternative method of transport had to be found. Transport by sea was the obvious alternative. The Germans adopted it.

CHECKMATE

And that was where the other part of the British plan fell into its place. Waiting for just that move by the Germans was the Royal Navy—the Navy and its little ships, its flotillas of swift motor torpedo-boats and now motor gun-boats, officered and manned by daring souls who are in the direct tradition of the Elizabethan sea dogs.

Those little ships are now coming into their own. They are making it deadly clear to the Germans that the North Sea is British-controlled. All of it from the Channel to the top of Scotland and beyond. And not merely our side of it, but the enemy's as well.

SIMPLICITY ITSELF

Britain's little ships have struck. But not alone. Their work has all been correlated with that of the Coastal and Fighter commands.

Operationally, the business is simplicity itself. The Fighter Command's planes do train-busting—and drive Germany's transport work to the sea. Then the Coastal Command's planes spot that movement—tell the little ships just what the German boats are moving and where. And Beaufighters of this Command also make day attacks on those German craft, swooping in and wreaking destruction with torpedo and shell under the escort of the Fighter Command's Spitfires and Mustangs.

THE NET RESULT

The little ships do the rest, darting in with torpedo and shell, sinking their German quarry, and darting out again. The net result is that to-day a 24-hour sea-and-air blitz is in progress against Germany's rail and sea transport to the West Coast defences.

Let me pick five aces of the little ships of Britain—ships which have driven Hitler's convoys into furtive dark night affairs.

TOOK HEAVY TOLL

There is Hichens—or rather, there was Hichens—Lieut-Commander R. P. Hichens. In peacetime, Falmouth, solicitor and yachtsman. Thrice D.S.C., holder of the D.S.O.

A lucky shot by a German gunner struck him down a few weeks ago. But he had made his mark, had taken a terribly heavy toll of German convoy traffic.

And Dickens—Lieut. P. G. C. Dickens, great-grandson of the famous Charles. Bearded and adventurous. He too has made his mark in this battle of convoys.

And Peter Scott, son of the famous father who blazed new trails in the Antarctic. Bird-lover, and etcher of many beautiful pictures, to-day son Peter is seeking Germans in Germans' own waters.

STILL BEATING THEM

And Kenneth Gemmel, engineer in civil life, aged 34, sailor to his finger tips. Just before the war he led his schooner *Valiant* against all comers: sailed her from Dover to Christiansund in a trip that beat nine of Germany's crack yachtsmen. To-day, he flies at his masthead the pennant he carried then. And he is still beating the Germans against whom his seamanship and dash are pitted.

Then there is Tralayney—" Trouncer " they call him. He was christened Ian, and is 26. A great name. His great-great-grand-father raided the seas as a Cornish privateer.

SALTY DARING

In these leaders of Britain's little ships the salty daring of Britons through the centuries has come again to life. So watch the communiqués that tell of these " light coastal forces " action. They are the very spirit of Britain. They are making history, and they are day-to-day chronicles that set down an immutably bitter realization for Hitler—the realization that the North Sea is Britain's now and ever more. Reincarnated captains of the little ships of Britain through the centuries ensure it, we like to think.

—*The Sunday Dispatch*.

Russian Industry Prepares For Summer

By G. KOLMANOV.

NOT only the Red Army, but the entire Soviet Union and all its industry and national economy is preparing for the summer battles.

It is common knowledge that now-a-days the issue of war is largely decided in factories and mills, scientific institutes and farmers' fields: for to-day even wheat grown by farmers is a weapon of war. That is why special importance attaches to a number of events which occurred in the Soviet Union during the last few days.

The first of these events is the report on the successes achieved by the Soviet iron and steel industry during the first quarter of 1943, and Government awards to a large group of Russian metallurgists.

According to an official report, the iron and steel industry, during the first quarter of 1943, considerably increased the output compared with that of the first quarter of 1942, thus showing that it has overcome all difficulties which confronted it during the first stage of war.

The Germans captured Ukraine in 1941. That necessitated the prompt transference of all the Ukrainian metallurgical plants to the east. The second metallurgical base created by Stalin in the Urals and Siberia many years prior to the war, bore the brunt of war demands for metal, until the plants, evacuated from the Ukraine, commenced operations in new places, and until new plants were constructed.

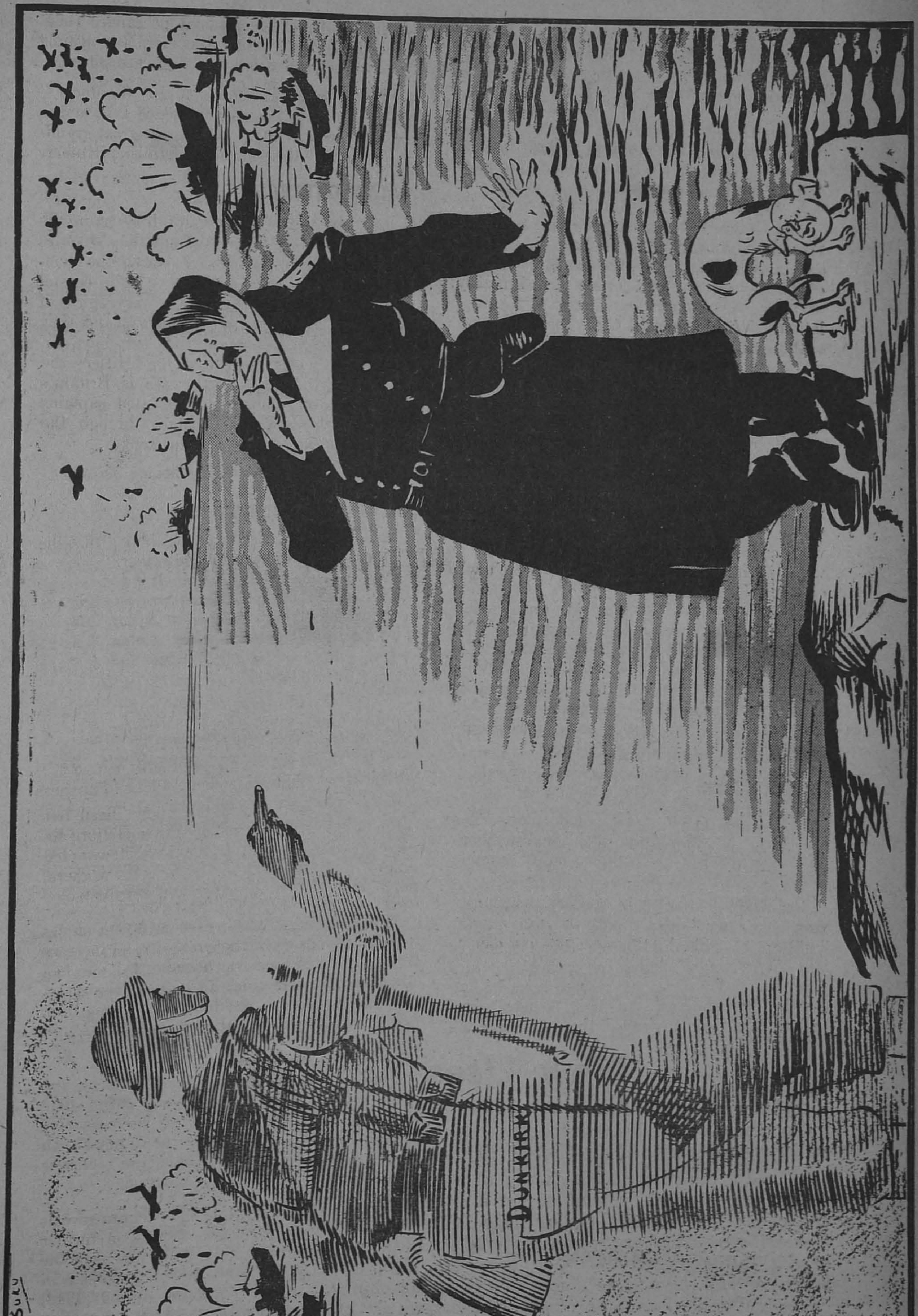
This difficult period has now been left behind. The successes achieved by metallurgists were recognized by Government which awarded orders and medals to over 800 workers, engineers, factory directors and scientists.

Similar interest was evoked in Soviet circles by the publication of the State plan to increase livestock in 1943. Soviet farming has also had to overcome numerous difficulties caused by war: among others, the difficulties arising from drafting a section of the male population into the army.

Despite this, large-horned cattle, sheep and goats in collective farms increased during 1942 by 11 per cent. The same year the peasantry sold to the State 49 per cent more meat than in 1941. War could not shake the economic foundations of the Soviet countryside.

The collective system of land tenure reveals ever new and greater potentialities of further progress. That is why the Government of the U.S.S.R. found it possible to plan increase in the development of livestock during 1943, providing for the increase of 11·8 per cent in herd of large-horned cattle; 13·5 per cent in sheep and goats and 16·4 per cent in pigs.

IT'S YOUR TURN NOW!



China: Resistance and Reconstruction

By H. D. LIM, *Head of Chinese Central News Agency, London.*

"IN the first few months of war," said Mr. H. D. Lim, London head of the Chinese Central News Agency, in a B.B.C. broadcast on April 27, "failing to overcome our dauntless resistance, the Japanese resorted on an unprecedented scale to brutality, atrocity and savagery on the civilian population. With a shock, the people of China realized that this was total war and that total war must be met with total resistance. The Government rose to the occasion with a clarion call to the nation. The Government proclaimed China's war and peace aims in simple and clear-cut and understandable terms.

The first aim is national unity and resistance to the end until victory is won, whatever be the cost. The second is national reconstruction; in other words, fight the enemy with one hand and build up a new nation with the other, so that the China which will emerge after victory will not be completely exhausted and will be stronger and greater than the China which entered the war in 1937. Under this gigantic reconstruction programme without going to extremes, it is our intention to make China belong, not to a few families as in Japan with the entire policy controlled by three families, but that China should belong to the 450 million Chinese.

DEMOCRACY

The third aim is democracy. The democracy we want to see established in China should be genuine, to embrace both economic and political democracy.

Before the war, we had no parliament, since war begun we have established the People's Political Council. Although this Council is still an advisory body, its resolutions and recommendations have never been turned down by the Government. In fact, Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek envisaged that the People's Political Council should be the embryo of the future parliament of China. The China will therefore emerge as a democratic power which will help to strengthen and promote a world of liberty. That is our third war aim . . .

The spirit of China to-day calls for something contrary to what the Japanese want. Japan wants the people of the East to hate and dissociate themselves from their Western brothers. We in China stand for the closest co-operation between the free peoples of the West and the free peoples of the East on the basis of equality, justice and honour. For only thus can world brotherhood and permanent peace be established.

CHINA'S SACRIFICE

It is for these 'war and peace aims,' that the Chinese people have made their supreme sacrifice. They have unstingingly given up their lives, their homes and their all for the survival of China as a free nation, for a stronger and greater post-war China, for the victory of the United Nations and for the victory of civilization over barbarism.

But the cost of our resistance has been and is appalling. . . About 200 million lives in China have been directly affected by Japan's wanton aggression, and yet the Japanese still call it the 'China Incident.' The Japanese boasted that they would beat China to her knees that they would wipe out China, a mere geographical expression as they called it, from the map of the world. For this contempt, the Chinese nation with its four-thousand-year-old civilization and culture, like an avenging spirit has risen to defy the enemy.

We rejoice that to-day the people of the British Commonwealth of Nations are fighting by our side, for we are no longer alone."

—*From a B.B.C. talk broadcast on April 27.*

New Uses For Coal

American coal mines will produce 600,000,000 tons of bituminous coal in 1943 an increase of 30,000,000 tons over last year's production, to help carry out the military programme of the United States and her allies.

Coal is one of the basic sinews of war. It powers 85 per cent of America's rail roads, generates 46 per cent of her electric power. A ton of coal is used for every ton of steel produced in the United States. Now coal is being employed in ever-increasing quantity as the raw material for industrial synthetics from which hundreds of vital military products are being made. Chemically converted, coal is already the source of such diverse products as tyres, parachutes, aircraft turrets, healing sulfa-drugs and explosives. New uses for the versatile black mineral are constantly being developed in research laboratories.

More than 6,000 mines are in operation in the United States. To meet this year's expanded schedule of production, they will be producing 11,500,000 tons of coal every week, highest sustained output in United States history.

TRAINING OF MECHANICS FOR THE INDIAN AIR FORCE.—This photograph taken at the Poona Engineering College shows how youths in all parts of India are being put through a special course of training at nine centres in different parts of India to enable them to qualify as mechanics for the Indian Air Forces. Under the scheme 2,000 mechanics are to be trained each year for two years. The course lasts for 12 months. When a class have dismantled an engine they are taught to familiarise themselves with every component part. These trainees are examining a carburettor.

Parachutists as Infantry

CORRESPONDENTS in North Africa have been sending glowing accounts of the work performed by British parachutists with the First Army. These parachutists were, it is said, one of the mainstays of that army throughout the early anxious months. This is what *The Times* correspondent in North Tunisia writes about them :

The parachutists have shown themselves magnificent infantry, pre-eminent in physique and steadiness of nerve, born guerilla fighters, mobile and tireless, tremendous marchers with an undefeatable spirit. In the march-fighting around Tamera and Sejenane they were the backbone, first of a dogged defence, and then of an irresistible attack. It was they who captured Jebel Mansour at the beginning of February in a night attack.

But many of their greatest feats have been achieved in swoops and skirmishes among the hills, which kept the enemy constantly on tenterhooks. The parachute battalion which dropped at Soukel Arba on November 16 moved on to Beja the next day, knocked out six Italian armoured cars, and then took to the hills between Beja and Mateur, where for the next three weeks they rallied the local French and became a nightmare to the enemy. They made raid after raid on enemy strong posts, often marching as far as 35 miles in a night. They used to lurk by the roadside and ambush convoys so successfully that by early December they were almost completely equipped with captured enemy transport. In the second half of December and the first half of January the parachutists were playing a less mobile role, holding the sector astride the Beja-Mateur road with French infantry and United States artillery. But they kept in their hand by sending out a succession of deep fighting patrols.

FOUGHT ON IN MUD AND RAIN

Things were not going so successfully, however, in the northern sector. Sejenane had fallen and the enemy were pressing on towards Jebel Abiod. The parachutists were sent for, and on March 8 they went in at Tamera to stiffen a hardpressed defence. For a fortnight, sometimes forced back and sometimes actually surrounded, they fought on in mud and rain. They beat off attack after attack, retook a position here and a position there, and brought new strength and courage to less experienced troops who were fighting beside them. Their pride and fighting spirit rose to sublime heights.

One battalion, after eight days' continuous fighting without sleep or hot food, was withdrawn for a short rest. Bivouacs and cooked meals awaited them 40 yards from where their transport stopped. But they were so exhausted that they could not walk that short distance for food, rest and shelter. They

rolled out of their trucks and fell asleep instantly beside them in the rain. Within two hours they were awakened and put back into the line to repel an enemy attack. They got up and went back and beat off the attack.

A TRAY OF GRENADES

At another desperate moment, when a small body of parachutists was surrounded and was on the point of being wiped out, a private with a tray of grenades walked calmly through the storm of fire to the slit trenches where his comrades crouched, shouting "Cigarettes? Chocolates?" The enemy was beaten off. The tide turned, and an hour before midnight on March 27 the parachutists moved forward with infantry towards the first objectives in the three-day operation that freed Sejenane.

The next day the Germans counter-attacked with their own parachutists. They too have been used for months as infantry and are good troops, perhaps the best in Von Arnim's army. They attacked all day and almost surrounded our parachutists, but in the end the attack weakened and broke. Our men went on to their second objectives and spent the rest of the night mopping up the enemy in the woods. The parachutists had no more opposition in reaching their final objectives.

Many things have contributed to the excellence of parachutists as infantry. They are unusually mobile, partly because of their remarkable marching powers and partly because by training they are accustomed to manage with much less transport than ordinary infantry. Their physique is well above the average, and no man becomes a parachutist unless his nerves are good. But the most important factor of all is probably their pride in themselves as the *corps d'elite*. They are young but they have proved themselves time and again.

"Skip Bombing" Technique

AN extraordinary feature of the skip or skid bombing, which is being used with such deadly effect now in the South-West Pacific, is that Flying Fortresses designed for substratosphere bombing have become by this means in effect torpedo-bombers, operating at the deck level of shipping.

The forces brought into play by the speed of the plane cause a heavy bomb to skip along the surface of the water like a pebble flicked over a pond to hole the target on the water-line.

The term skip bombing is self-explanatory and the idea underlying the technique is simple. The target ship has the greatest difficulty in depressing her ackack guns quickly enough to meet a sudden swoop at deck level.

At night flares can be used to light up targets and dazzle the gunners.

Bombs may ricochet along the surface into the vessel's side, and thus produce a similar effect to a torpedo. If the bombs drop too steeply and sink, they may maintain a forward impetus under water and explode near the vessel's side like depth charges.

Finally, if they are dropped late, they may produce an orthodox bombing effect on the ship's deck or superstructure.

The Bismarck Sea Battle was the first time skip bombing was used in the South-West Pacific on a large scale. The technique was developed in New Guinea by Major William Benn, of Washington, an aide of Lieutenant-General Kenney, commanding the Allied air forces in the South-West Pacific. Experimental runs were made against an old hulk near Port Moresby.

In the first raid wherein skip bombing was employed in this area a Fortress sank a freighter and cruiser in Rabaul harbour before the Japanese knew what had hit them.

In one raid three freighters, two light cruisers and three destroyers cost only 30 bombs.

In the Bismarck Sea Battle 12 Mitchell bombers scored direct hits on 11 ships by this means, and at Kavieng eight Fortresses also scored 11 direct hits.

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Together in War and Peace

"For a peace which could endure, they should need not only close understanding between themselves, the British Commonwealth and the United States, Russia and China, but the full co-operation of all the United Nations.

Together, we shall win the war and win the peace. Nothing less will content us. It is our duty—yours and mine—to hand on to our children a world in which freedom can live and man command his soul."

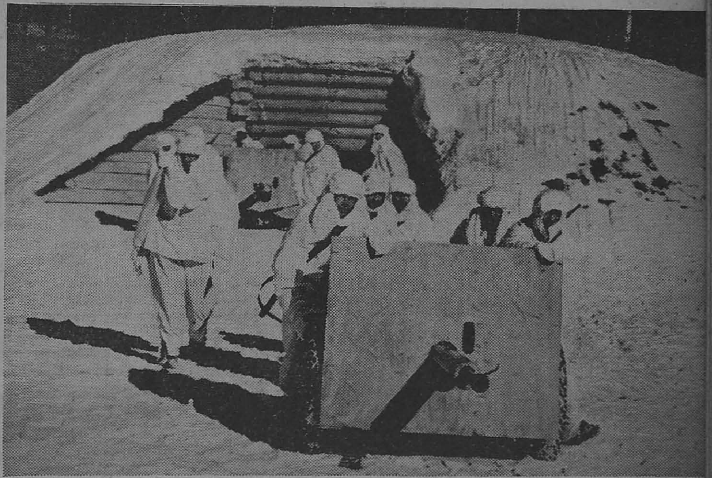
—MR. ANTHONY EDEN, *the British Foreign Secretary in a broadcast to the Canadian people.*

THE RUSSIAN FRONT

A great change is now noticed in the Nazis taken prisoner by the victorious Red Army men, and those captured during the earlier battles of a year ago.

Formerly confident and sure of a German victory, the Nazis now seem disspirited, with fears of a German defeat, and only glad to be out of the war and its hardships.

Photo shows varied expressions on the faces of a batch of German prisoners taken on the central front.



White clad Russian artillerymen bringing their mobile guns from a huge dug-out at an outpost on the northern front.

These dug-outs, strongly constructed and covered are invisible from the air and afford safety and shelter for both the crews and their guns, not only from enemy shell fire, but also the icy weather of a Russian winter.

Telephone communication brings the guns into action on any part of their sector within a few minutes.

Russian infantry advancing under the support of artillery against a village held by the Nazis on the southern front.

RAMA DEEPA

RAMA DEEPA is a new device for burning vegetable oils or kerosene for lighting. It is simple in construction and easy of manipulation. Vegetable oil lamps hitherto produced have two oil tanks, one above the other with a feeding pipe to supply oil to the wick. They are not suitable for the use of kerosene oil as fuel.

Rama Deepa is a dual oil lamp and therefore its purchaser will be no loser by his investment, even if kerosene comes back into common use. It covers a wide range of lighting devices to serve all purposes—hurricane lantern, table light, platform (railway) light, bed lights and naked flame ' buddi.'

Since some of the models of Rama Deepa are above the means of the poorer classes, the National War Front, Madras, have arranged with Messrs. Rama Deepa Works, Dowlaishweram (East Godavari District) to manufacture, on a large scale, three of the cheaper varieties of Rama Deepa lights, the bed room lantern, the bed light and the naked flame light.

The stamp of the National War Front will be imprinted on each lamp, and retail prices are fixed for the present at one rupee (bed room lantern), nine annas (bed light) and two annas (naked flame light).

A cheap lighting device alone will not wholly solve the problem for the poor villager. Availability of the illuminant and the cost of lighting have to be taken into consideration. With this end in view, various vegetable oils have been tried with the above lamps and the results are given below. The capacity of the oil tank in the bed lantern and the bed room light is 3 ounces and the duration of light is noted below in the case of each oil :—

3 oz. of groundnut oil burns for	..	21 hours.
,, pungam (karanji) oil	..	20 ,,
,, margosa oil	..	24 ,,
3 oz. of mahwa (Ippa, Illuppah) oil.		20 hours.
,, tobacco oil	..	21 ,,
,, mustard mixed with 25 per cent groundnut.		

Mahwa (Illuppah) oil cannot be used in winter as it congeals like coconut oil.

Margosa oil burns longest, and, assuming that the price of one viss (3 lb.) of any oil is one rupee, costs the user about one anna per week at the rate of 3 or 4 hours per day, making a monthly lighting cost of about four annas.

With all the above oils, Rama Deepa lights will burn continuously for about eight hours without adjustment of the wick; the flame dies out only when the last drop of the oil is consumed.

The National War Front hopes that the people of South India will use the vegetable oil available in their locality for their lighting and thus save kerosene for essential purposes. They will thus make a substantial contribution to the self-sufficiency drive, since indigenous, and not imported, products will thus be used for essential needs.

THE NATIONAL WAR FRONT
RAMA DEEPA LAMP

BEDROOMLAMP Rs.1-
BEDROOMLANTERN as.9
VILLAKU as.2

NOTE
3 OZS. OF GROUNDNUT OIL (COST AS.1) WILL GIVE 18 HOURS OF LIGHT. THEREFORE, AT 3 HOURS PER NIGHT A POOR FAMILY WILL HAVE LIGHT FOR A MONTH FOR ABOUT AS.5.

DISTRIBUTORS. SRIPADA NARASIMHA BROS. COCANADA

BURN VEGETABLE OIL
SAVE KEROSINE FOR THE WAR

BRITAIN AND GERMANY

6th May.—New and extensive German anti-invasion preparations were reported from Norway.

The Royal Air Force Coastal Command set up a record during April in its war on U-boats. Since the beginning of the war they had made 881 attacks on U-boats and engaged more than 1,600 Axis aircraft in combat.

7th May.—About 10 people were killed in a raid by four German planes on an East Anglian coast town.

The creation of a Danish naval force to join the Allied navies was announced.

According to the *Daily Mail* Naval correspondent, Britain to-day had enough convoy escorts, both surface ships and aircraft, to turn from purely defensive to directly offensive tactics against U-boat packs in the Atlantic.

8th May.—An alert was sounded in London. Four out of 13 German raiders which visited Britain were brought down.

9th May.—An enemy armed ship was damaged off the coast of Brittany.

10th May.—Speaking on the fourth anniversary of the Winter Help Campaign, Hitler called for further sacrifices from the German people.

11th May.—Admiral Sir John Torvey, former Commander-in-Chief of the Home Fleet gave the warning that the German battle fleet might come out for action.

Mr. Anthony Eden reiterated in the Commons that the Allies' peace terms were unconditional surrender.

12th May.—Dr. Schacht, the German financial expert, was expelled from the Nazi party.

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND ATLANTIC

6th May.—Mr. Elmer Davis, Chief of the United States Office of War Information said that there was no question but that there would be Allied operations in Continental Europe this summer.

The launching of 16 more merchant ships was announced.

Mr. Stettinius, Lend-Lease Administrator, reported that in March Lend-Lease exports were the highest on record and totalled 705 million dollars.

8th May.—Mr. William Phillips, President Roosevelt's special envoy in India, returned to America.

The Paris Radio stated that the United States Government were negotiating with Portugal for a temporary occupation of Cape Verde Islands.

It was reported that Allied Governments, including Russia, had been "orally but officially" informed of an Anglo-American post-war plan envisaging a World Council of Four Powers and a Committee of Eight Nations on which smaller powers would serve in rotation.

11th May.—It was reported that Churchill and Roosevelt would soon meet for discussing the next logical step before the Allied invasion of Europe.

Five German submarines attacking west-bound Allied convoys in the Atlantic theatre were sunk on May 6. Several others were heavily damaged or probably sunk.

12th May.—Mr. Churchill arrived in Washington and was in conference with President Roosevelt. Field Marshal Wavell was a member of Mr. Churchill's party. This was Mr. Churchill's fourth meeting with the President. President Benes also arrived in Washington.

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INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

6th May.—There was active patrolling on the west side of the Mayu ridge. Toungoo was bombed. A sharp attack was made on the railway installation at Prome.

The Japanese attacked an airfield in south-eastern Bengal.

7th May.—United States bombers attacked Namtu mines in Burma. Railway installations at Myohaung junction in Burma were also hit. Bombs were dropped on rail-road installations at Prome and Pyinmana. The Japanese made a thrust in the Maungdau-Buthidaung area.

8th May.—East of the Mayu ridge, the enemy obtained a position astride the Maungdau-Buthidaung road. The Royal Air Force attacked Japanese troop positions in the Mayu Peninsula.

9th May.—American aircraft attacked rail yards in Rangoon. The Royal Air Force attacked enemy objectives at Mayohaung.

10th May.—American cargo planes landed in India after completing the longest and largest mass flight in history.

The Tokyo Radio claimed that the Japanese had occupied Buthidaung. It was not confirmed. American aircraft attacked the Japanese barracks at Mamyo, rail-road yards at Yamethin and Kyankse and enemy installations in Kamaing area.

11th May.—It was reported that with the loss of Buthidaung, Allied troops would move further north towards Cox's Bazaar.

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ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

6th May.—Allied long range fighters attacked several small enemy vessels in the Aegean Sea, north of Crete.

American troops captured Djebel Cheniti and Djebel Achkel. The First Army captured Djebel Bon Aonkaz. Mr. Stimson, United States Secretary of State for War, said that the noose was tightening around the Axis army in Tunisia and the campaign was entering its final phase.

Mr. Elmer Davis, Chief of the United States Office of War Information, said that the Axis leaders feared that the Italian people would welcome an Allied invasion and were therefore trying to whip up a feeling of hatred for the Americans.

Sgr. Mussolini, addressing a crowd of people outside the Palazzo Venezia, said that the Italians were suffering from ' African disease ' —their whole longing and craving aim at a return to Africa. " Italy must and will return to Africa."

7th May.—British and American forces captured Tunis and Bizerta. The occupation was complete.

On the eve of the offensive, General Alexander issued the following Order of the Day : " Soldiers of the Allies, you have proved yourselves masters of the battlefield and therefore you will win this last great battle, which will give us the whole of North Africa. The eyes of the world are on you and the hopes of those at home. Forward, then, to victory!"

The Royal Air Force attacked the harbour at Reggio de Calabria and Trapani, Marsala and Isola Favignana (Sicily). Considerable damage was done.

A 5,000-ton cargo vessel owned by the South African Government was torpedoed and sunk off the South African coast by an Axis submarine.

8th May.—The Allies captured Pont Du Fahs and Bir Mchenga. Many thousands of prisoners were captured. British tanks and infantry mopped up demoralized Axis troops south-west of Goubellat. Tunis and Bizerta were practically cut off from Europe.

9th May.—General Eisenhower stated that organized Axis resistance had ended in Tunisia. Three German divisional Commanders were captured. The Germans were machine-gunned by planes on their ' Dunkirk ' beaches as they tried to get away in small craft. The Algiers Radio said that about 120,000 Axis troops had been encircled. Twenty thousand prisoners had been taken.

The Soviet Press hailed the Allied victory in Tunisia as a prelude to a second front. His Majesty the King sent a message to General Eisenhower.

Partial evacuation of Toulon and Nice were ordered.

10th May.—The Royal Air Force attacked the airfield at Pantellaria. Flying Fortresses attacked Palermo. Sicily also was attacked.

Cape Bon peninsula was blockaded by Allied naval and coastal forces. Since May 7, 50,000 prisoners had been captured. The *Luftwaffe* and *Regia Aeronautica* withdrew from the battle altogether. Von Arnim was still reported to be in Tunisia.

According to reports from Zurich, the Axis authorities rushed through the evacuation of civilians from the French Riviera coast. Work on the Riviera fortifications were also speeded up.

11th May.—Goering held a conference with Mussolini and military chiefs in Rome.

It was reported that Hitler would entrust Rommel with a new task after his complete recovery. Axis forces in the American sector surrendered unconditionally.

It was revealed that Axis armies in North Africa left a total of 476,000 prisoners in Allied hands since 1940 and up to May 9. Of these, 280,000 were Italians, 106,000 Germans and the remaining unspecified.

Pantellaria was again bombed, also Messina.

The First Army reached the outskirts of Hammamet on the shore of Cape Bon. German forces in Zaghouan mountains asked for armistice terms. The French Command demanded unconditional surrender. The Fourth Indian Division took part in the break-through from Medjez salient to Tunis. Axis troops were completely bottled up.

12th May.—Allied forces reached the extreme tip of Cape Bon Peninsula. Axis forces were encircled.

It was officially announced that von Arnim was taken prisoner at Cape Bon.

The Morocco radio stated that Italy was expected to take over both parts of Savoy and part of the French Mediterranean coast as a consolation to the loss of the African Empire.

A state of emergency was decreed for the Calabrian Peninsula.

RUSSIA AND FINLAND

6th May.—In the Kuban valley, north-east of Novorossisk, fierce battles were fought. Four hundred Germans were killed in one sector alone. German defences were pierced.

7th May.—The Russian army advanced beyond Neberzhaevskaya in the Kuban and occupied a number of important heights north-east of Novorossisk. Soviet long-range bombers bombed the railway junctions of Dneipnopetrovsk, Kremenchug and Bryansk.

8th May.—The Russians occupied several hills of tactical importance in the Kuban. The Moscow Radio stated that 350 German aircraft were destroyed on May 6. Thirty Russian planes made a concentrated attack on the Finnish port of Ketka.

9th May.—The Germans massed large fresh forces at various points of the 2,000-mile front stretching from the Arctic to the Black Sea.

10th May.—The Russian troops advanced towards Novorossisk. During the week ended May 8, 930 German aircraft were destroyed or damaged in air combats.

11th May.—It was reported that a new Soviet offensive was to be launched in the Orel sector.

The Soviet Government rejected Sweden's protest over the bombing of Verkre Island near Karlskrona on April 29.

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NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

7th May.—The Spanish Ambassador, Senor Cardenas, after seeing President Roosevelt, said: " Spain decides every day to stay out of the war."

10th May.—Speaking at the Town Hall, Madrid, General Franco said: " We have reached what is usually called the dead end of this struggle. After three years of war, it is folly to delay making peace."

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SHIPPING

6th May.—The British submarine *Sahib* was sunk in the Central Mediterranean.

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VICHY AND OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

6th May.—It was announced from Sofia that martial law had been proclaimed in the Bulgarian Black Sea coastal territory.

Large quantities of leaflets dropped by German planes threatened the National Bands of Greece with severe action.

It was revealed that between 100 and 400 Norwegians had escaped every week for the last six months to Sweden.

9th May.—Martial law was proclaimed in Holland.

Over 100 persons were arrested following wrecking of a German jamming radio station at Toulon.

The Germans, fearing an Allied invasion, cut all Greek communications with the outside world. There was a reign of terror.

Wilhelm Kruger, Gestapo Chief in Poland, was shot dead by Polish patriots.

[Kruger was responsible for the reign of terror in Poland.]

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THE FAR EAST

6th May.—A 5,000-ton Japanese cargo ship was hit and left burning and two 500-ton ships were possibly destroyed when Wewak town and port were heavily bombed.

American bombers attacked the Hanoi-Haiphong area in Indo-China and Samah in Hainan Island.

7th May.—Chinese forces, after bitter fighting recaptured Saio Island off south-east Kwangtung coast near Fukien Port. It was reported that the Japanese were preparing to withdraw from the Tai Hang Shan mountains on the Honan-Shansi border.

Five Allied merchant vessels were sunk east of Australia as a result of enemy submarine operations. Japanese installations at Munda in the Solomons were bombed by Allied aircraft.

United States planes bombed and strafed Attu island in the north Pacific.

8th May.—It was revealed that United States forces occupied Amchikta Island in the Aleutians last January without opposition. Colonel Knox, United States Navy Secretary, said that the American occupation of Adak and Amchitka formed part of a programme of advances which he termed " aggressive offensive " warfare.

In repeated broadcasts the German press and radio declared that " if the Allies attack Europe, the opportunity will be seized by the Japanese, not merely for strategic reasons, but because of moral obligations."

To this, the Tokyo radio replied. " As the relations between Japan and Russia are based on an existing Neutrality Pact, such intrigues merely revel the originator's desperate plight."

9th May.—Japanese positions on Attu Island were shelled. A Japanese transport crowded with troops was sunk off Madang.

Mr. William Hughes, Australian Prime Minister, said: " Germany's star is setting, but the war with Japan might go on for years."

Japan lodged a strong protest with Peru against the economic measures taken against Japanese property owners.

10th May.—American bombers raided a Japanese airfield near Canton starting big fires. Forty enemy fighters were destroyed.

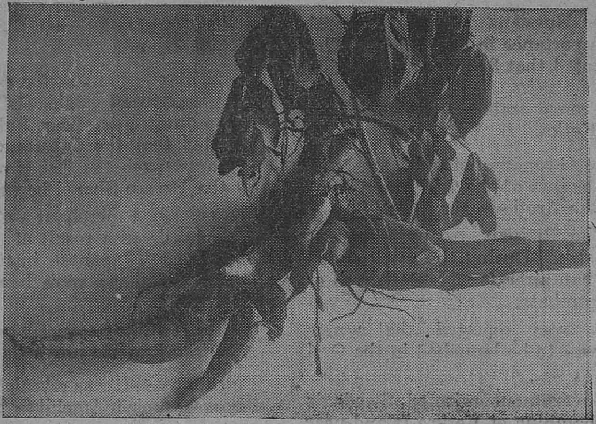
The village of Horobetsu on the south-eastern coast of Hokkaido, one of the islands forming the Japanese home country, was shelled by an Allied submarine.

12th May.—The Japanese aerodrome at Vunakaran was attacked. Fighting flared up in Mubo area of New Guinea. Jap positions in Munda were bombed.

Grow More Food—in Your Gardens!

Tuberous and Root Vegetables

Tapioca or Cassava



Manihot utilissima; Fam: *Euphorbiaceæ*. *Maravalli-kelanju*, Tam.; *Kappa or Maracheeni*, Mal.

Description.—A shrubby plant about 6–8 feet high with erect slender stems, palwately divided leaves on long red stalks, and large tuberous roots, full of starch; the juice of the roots contains small quantities of hydrocyanic or prussic acid. There are a number of varieties differing in foliage, and size and colour of tubers.

Propagations.—Tapioca plants are propagated from mature stem-cuttings about 6–12 inches long, planted in a slanting position with a little over half the length of the cuttings below the soil, and at distances 4 to 5 feet apart. The soil must be kept moist till the leaves begin to sprout.

Cultivation.—This crop can be grown in all types of land, even in dry localities and upon poor soil. Mounding the plants and weeding are necessary. The tubers are ready in 9 to 12 months, according to locality and variety. The tubers should be eaten within 2–3 days after they are dug; otherwise they may develop poisonous properties. Even during these 2 or 3 days it is best to keep the tubers under moist soil.

Seasons.—There are two common varieties in Malabar—one planted in April and lifted in December and the other planted in January and lifted in August.

Uses.—(1) The starchy roots can be peeled and steamed and eaten with curds or chutney. (2) The tubers can also be used for curries. (3) A starchy flour called "manioc flour" can be prepared from the tubers in different ways—(*a*) The tubers can be cut into very thin slices and dried in the sun and then ground into flour, when necessary. (*b*) Good "manioc flour" can be obtained in another way. The tubers are skinned washed and ground into pulp. A wide-mouthed pot is three-quarters filled with water, and a coarse piece of muslin tied to the mouth, so that the folds descend into the water. The pounded meal is then put into the muslin "bag" little by little, and squeezed so that the flour drains off into the pot. When all the flour has been thus separated, the muslin is removed and the starch allowed to settle. The water is then drained off, more fresh water added, stirred well and the mixture allowed to settle again. After the water has been drained off 3 or 4 times, there may be a thin layer of brownish incrustation on the top of the starch; this can be scraped off with a spoon. The starch is then dried in the sun, and while drying, the lumps are broken up. When the flour is completely dry, it is rolled out on a stone grinder and the flour sifted through a sieve—Manioc flour is used for making sweets and for starching cloth. (4) Tapioca roots can also be cut into extremely thin slices, steeped in boiling water for a few minutes, the water drained off and the thin slices dried in the Sun. These chips and also the manioc flour can be preserved in air-tight tins for quite a long time. The chips can be fried in oil or ghee and then sugared. (5) The granulated "tapioca" of commerce is prepared from the tubers. (6) Tapioca is also grown as food for stock.

General analysis.—Water 59·4 per cent; mineral 1·0 per cent; proteins 0·7 per cent; fat 0·2 per cent; carbohydrate 38·7 per cent; calories per pound 795; calcium 0·069 per cent; phosphorus 0·092 per cent; iron 0·0009 per cent; vitamin A—nil; vitamin B—I.U. per 100 gms. 26; vitamin C mgm. per 100 gms. 38·8.

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